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Note verbale dated 20 January 2000 from the Permanent Mission of Japan (Vienna) addressed to the Secretary-General

In accordance with article 5, paragraph 1 of the 1968 Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of objects Launched into Outer Space, the Permanent Representative of Japan hereby wishes to notify the Secretary-General that component parts of a space object have been discovered on Japanese territory. The object was found on the beach on Yoron Island in the Kagoshima Prefecture by inhabitants of the island on 8 November 1999. It is a cylinder-shaped object, which is 6m in length and 1.25m in diameter. It is believed to be a component part of a United States launch vehicle. An investigation concluded that the object poses no risk of hazards to people and property, and it is temporarily being kept at the village office on the island. At present, and in cooperation with the Government of the United States, efforts to identify the object are underway.

In accordance with article 5(1) of the 1968 Agreement cited above, the Government of Japan is also notifying the Government of the United States.

The Permanent Mission of Japan further has the honour to request that this communication be circulated to Member States as an official document of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.